

## **Remarks**

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 3-5 were rejected, claims 17-20 were allowed, and claims 2 and 6-8 were objected to. By this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested. No new matter has been added.

### **Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102**

Claims 1, 4 and 5 were rejected under § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0011055 issued to Kuriki et al. (hereinafter "Kuriki '055"). Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite a machining system that includes "a seal extending from the top surface to the housing such that the seal does not extend into the opening and such that the seal extends completely around the opening." Applicants note that this amendment employs language referenced by the Examiner in the reasons for allowance for claim 17 (see final Office Action, page 4). Consequently, Applicants believe that this amendment places the application in condition for allowance (since Kuriki '055 does not recite a machining system having a seal as claimed) and that amended claim 1 does not present any issue requiring further consideration or search. Since claims 4 and 5 depend on claim 1, Applicants respectfully believe that the rejection of these claims is overcome for the same reasons.

### **Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claim 3 was rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuriki '055 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,115,599 issued to Stolzer et al. (hereinafter "Stolzer '599"). Claim 3 depends on claim 1. Consequently, this claim is believed to be allowable for the reasons previously discussed.

**Conclusion**

Applicants have made a genuine effort to respond to the Examiner's objections and rejections in advancing the prosecution of this case. Applicants believe all formal and substantive requirements for patentability have been met and that this case is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. Please charge any fees or credit any overpayments as a result of the filing of this paper to our Deposit Account No. 02-3978.

Respectfully submitted,  
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